



US Army Corps  
of Engineers



Watershed Protection District  
VENTURA COUNTY

# Matilija Dam Ecosystem Restoration Project

**Presented to:**  
**Southern California Association of Governments**

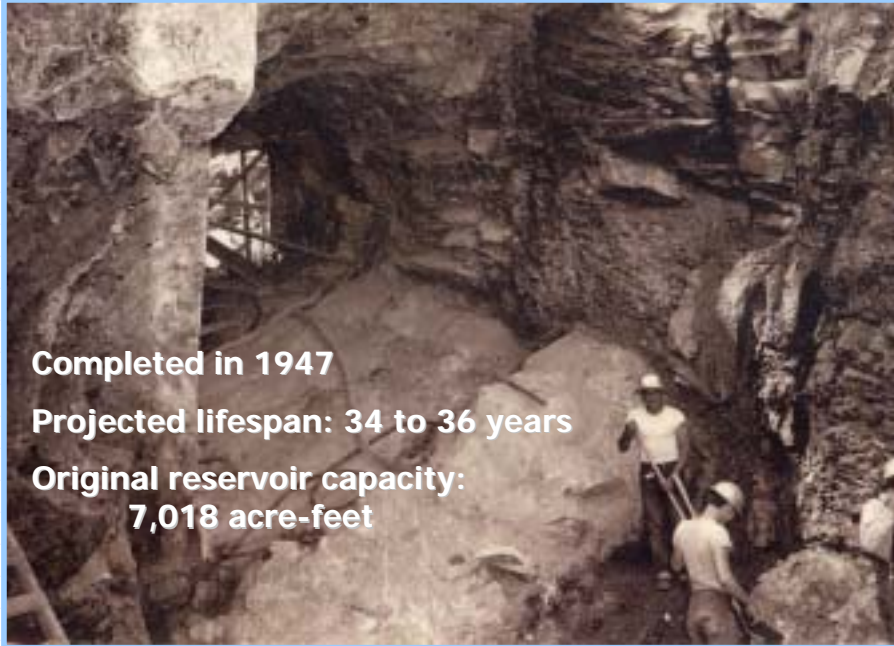
April 14, 2005

<http://www.matilijadam.org/>

## Study Area:

Ventura River  
Watershed



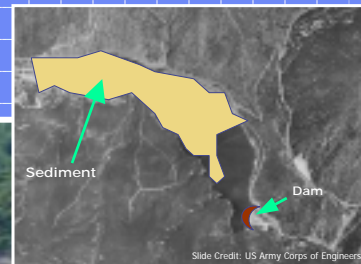


## Potential Long-term Liability



## Six Million Cubic Yards of Sediment

Current water capacity: 500 acre-feet





## Barrier to Fish & Wildlife Passage



## Beach Erosion



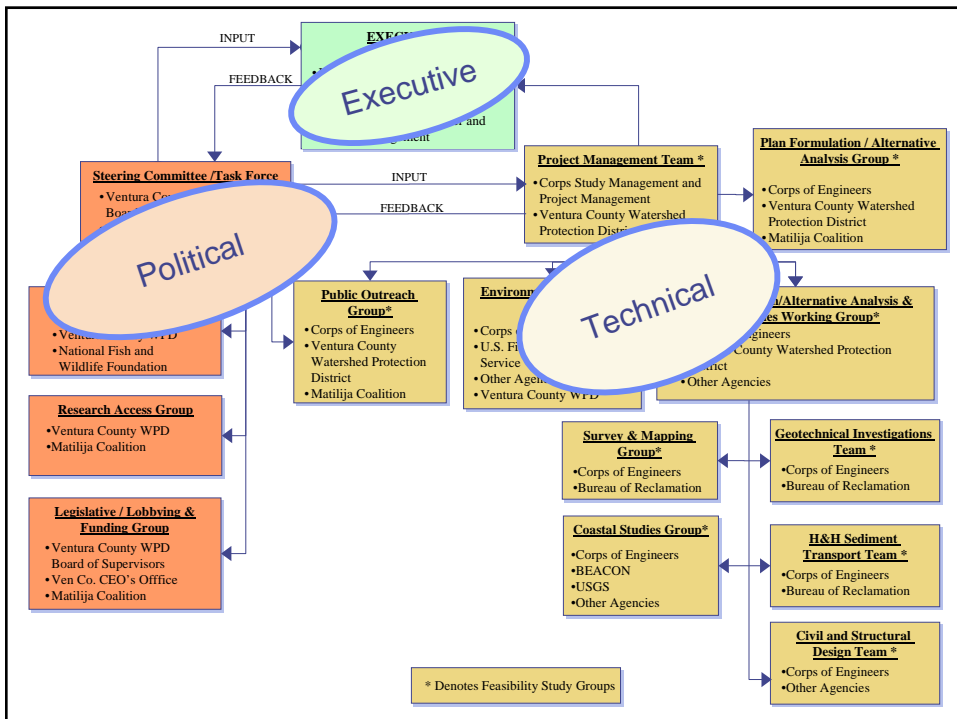


## Project Partners:



# Stakeholder Consensus

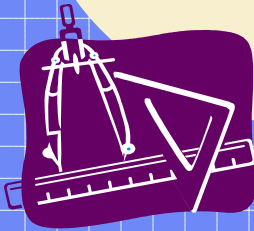
Federal, State, and local agencies, non-governmental organizations and community members agreed upon a process for stakeholder participation and consensus.



# PROJECT OBJECTIVES



- Improve Native Habitat
- Restore Sediment Transport
- Improve Recreational Opportunities
- (Keep Stakeholders “Whole”)

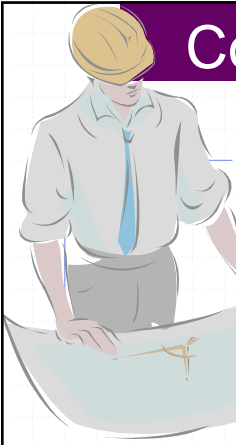


## Alternatives and Permutations Explored:

- Full Dam Removal/Mechanical Sediment Transport
- Full Dam Removal/Natural Sediment Transport
- Incremental Dam Removal /Natural Sediment Transport
- Full Dam Removal/Sediment Stabilization On-site
  - a. Long-term Transport Period
  - b. Short-term Transport Period
- Do Nothing







## Consensus Project (Alt. 4b):

- Ecosystem restoration elements
- Phased natural transport of sediment
- Protection of downstream water supply facilities
- Protection of downstream properties
- Improved recreation opportunities
- Single phase full dam removal

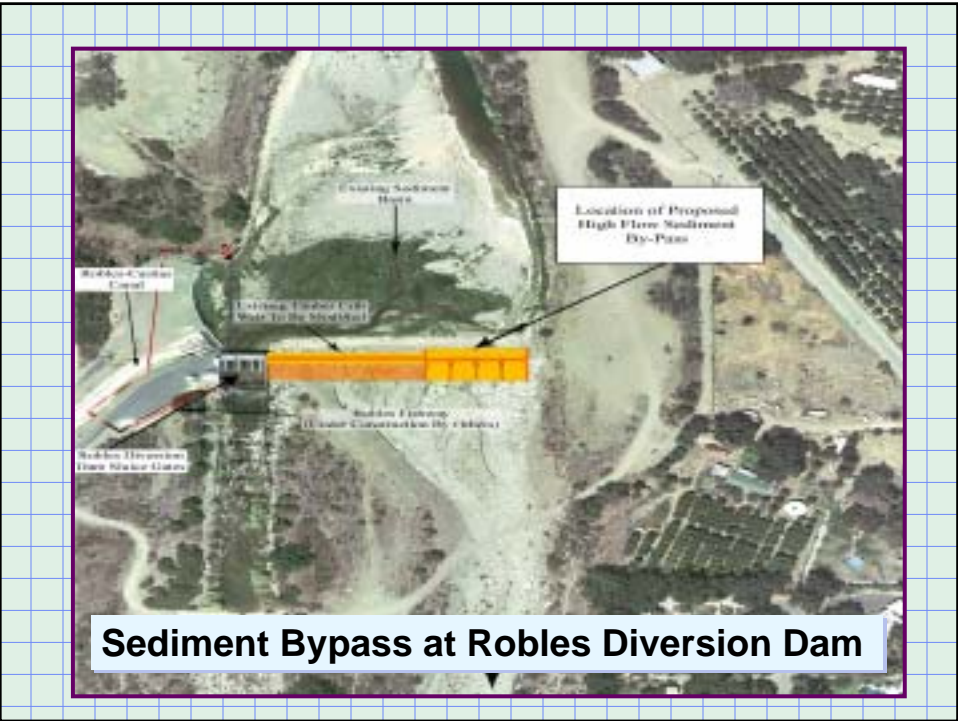


## Short-term Sediment Storage Sites

The map illustrates the Matilija River watershed with various sediment storage sites. Key features include:

- Soil Cement Sediment Storage:** Indicated by green shaded areas along the river channel.
- 100 Foot Wide Channel:** The main river channel, highlighted in blue.
- Matilija Dam:** A structure located downstream, marked with an orange line.

A scale bar at the bottom left shows a distance of 1000 feet, and a north arrow is positioned above it.





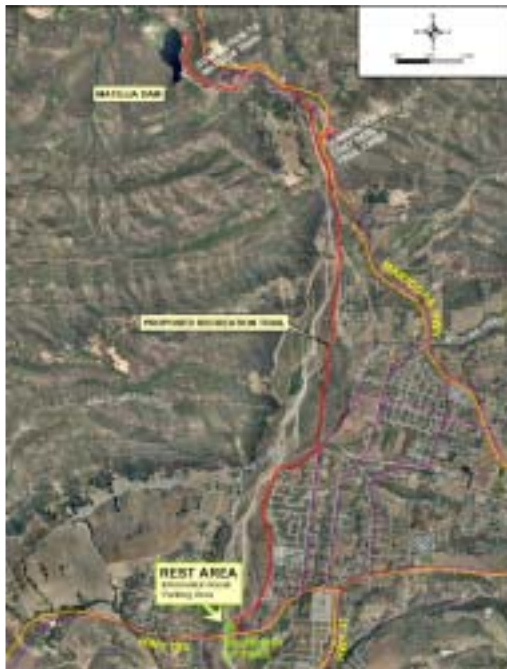




## Giant Reed Control Plan



## Recreation Plan





## ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

- ⊕ Ongoing monitoring
- ⊕ \$9 Million budgeted
- ⊕ For fine tuning the project

## Milestones...

Milestone	Description	Project Schedule
F1	Initiate Study	June 27, 2001
F2	Public Workshop/Scoping	January 31, 2002
F3	Without Project Conditions	October 9, 2002
F4	Preliminary Alternatives	October 15, 2003
F4A	Alternative Formulation Briefing	April 29, 2004
F5	Draft Feasibility Report	July 16, 2004
F6	Final Public Meeting	July 28, 2004
F7	Feasibility Review Conference	August 24, 2004
F8	Final Report to Division	September 16, 2004
F9	Design Engineer's Public Notice	September 30, 2004
ASA (CW)	Chief's Report to ASA (CW)	December 30, 2004
	Project Authorization	WRDA 2005?

# Project Timeline



December 2004: Chief's Report

2005 - 2007: Planning & Design



**2008 – 2011  
Implementation**

## Projected Costs



Federal Share (65%)	Local Share (35%)	<b>Total</b>
\$ 81 million	\$ 44 million	<b>\$125 million</b>

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT

## CEQA/NEPA REQUIREMENTS

- ⊕ PUBLIC DISCLOSURE
- ⊕ OBJECTIVE IMPACT EVALUATION
- ⊕ ALTERNATIVES ANALYSIS



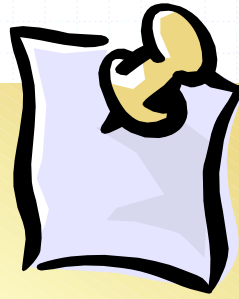
CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT

## CEQA/NEPA PROCESS

- ⊕ VCWPD LEAD AGENCY UNDER CEQA
- ⊕ CORPS LEAD AGENCY UNDER NEPA
- ⊕ JOINT EIS/EIR CONCURRENT TIMELINE



## **CEQA PROCESS**



- ✦ **NOTICE OF PREPARATION  
JANUARY 16, 2002**
- ✦ **PUBLIC MEETING HELD  
JANUARY 31, 2002**
- ✦ **NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY BEGAN 45-  
DAY PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD  
JULY 16 TO AUGUST 30, 2004**
- ✦ **PUBLIC HEARING HELD JULY 28, 2004**

## **CEQA PROCESS CONTINUES**



- ✦ **RESPONSES TO  
COMMENTS PREPARED**
- ✦ **FINAL EIS/EIR PUBLISHED  
SEPTEMBER 2004**

# CEQA PROCESS CONTINUES

- ✚ ERRC HEARING OCTOBER 13, 2004
- ✚ CONTINUED ON OCTOBER 20, 2004 TO ADDRESS ADDITIONAL COMMENTS
- ✚ DETERMINED TECHNICAL ADEQUACY
- ✚ RECOMMENDED BOARD CERTIFICATION



ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT REVIEW COMMITTEE

## FINAL REPORT (6 Volumes)

- Main Report
- Technical Appendices (A-C, E-G)
- Appendix D: Hydrologic, Hydraulic and Sediment Studies
- Draft EIS/R (July 2004)
- Final EIS/R (Sept 2004): Changes/ Responses to Comments to Draft EIS/EIR
- Errata and Supplemental Materials





## IMPACT ANALYSIS

- ⊕ **CLASS I: SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS THAT CANNOT BE FULLY MITIGATED**
- ⊕ **CLASS II: SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS MITIGATED TO LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT**
- ⊕ **CLASS III: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS, NO MITIGATION REQUIRED**
- ⊕ **CLASS IV: BENEFICIAL IMPACTS**

## CLASS I IMPACTS

- ⊕ **BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES**  
(During Implementation)
  - Noise and decreased cover
  - Wildlife movement
  - Sediment
  - Loss of Matilija Lake
- ⊕ **MITIGATION MEASURES**

## CLASS I IMPACTS

### ⊕ AESTHETICS

- New levees or increased levee heights block views

### ⊕ MITIGATION MEASURES

## CLASS I IMPACTS

### ⊕ AIR QUALITY

PM10 Emissions during implementation

### ⊕ MITIGATION MEASURES

## CLASS I IMPACTS

### ⊕ NOISE GENERATION

Construction

Giant Reed Control

Facility Operation and Maintenance

### ⊕ MITIGATION MEASURES

## CLASS I IMPACTS

### ⊕ TRANSPORTATION

Morning Peak hour trips will exceed  
Level-of-Service standards during  
project implementation

### ⊕ MITIGATION MEASURES

## MATILIJA ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROJECT

### CLASS I IMPACTS

#### ⊕ RECREATION

**CLOSURE OF EXISTING TRAILS MAY OCCUR  
FOR LONGER THAN 12 MONTHS**

#### ⊕ MITIGATION MEASURES

## MATILIJA ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROJECT

### CLASS II IMPACTS

⊕ **ALL PROJECT CLASS II IMPACTS  
FEASIBLY MITIGATED TO LESS  
THAN SIGNIFICANT**

**EARTH RESOURCES  
CULTURAL RESOURCES**

## CLASS III IMPACTS

⊕ CLASS III IMPACTS DO NOT EXCEED ADOPTED THRESHOLDS, NO MITIGATION REQUIRED.

- Hydrology and Water Resources
- Land Use – Levees, Relocation, Siltation Basin

## CLASS IV BENEFICIAL IMPACTS

⊕ EARTH RESOURCES

⊕ HYDROLOGY

⊕ BIOLOGY



## CLASS IV BENEFICIAL IMPACTS

- ⊕ **AESTHETICS**
- ⊕ **SOCIOECONOMICS**
- ⊕ **LAND USE**
- ⊕ **RECREATION**

## FINISHING CEQA PROCESS

- ⊕ **FILE NOTICE OF DETERMINATION**
- ⊕ **BEGIN 30-DAY LEGAL CHALLENGE PERIOD FOR APPROVAL OF EIS/EIR AND APPROVAL OF THE PROJECT**



## REQUESTED BOARD ACTIONS

- ⊕ APPROVE AND ADOPT FINDINGS AND STATEMENT OF FACTS
- ⊕ ADOPT RESOLUTION OF STATEMENT OF OVERRIDING CONSIDERATION
- ⊕ CERTIFY EIS/EIR
- ⊕ APPROVE THE PROJECT



## The Restoration Vision

